



CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

SEP 22 1999

1444
**Public
Comment**

Date 9-22-99

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program welcomes your participation. Please use the space below for your written comments (attach additional sheets if necessary).

Comments:

attached

Name: George Gomes

Organization: _____

Address: 5095 TONYA WY

CARMICHAEL, CA 95608

Phone: 916-966-0530 Fax: _____

Would you like to be added to
our mailing list?

_____ Check Here

Please return this form to:



CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

1416 Ninth St., #1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

For more information,
(916) 657-2666
(800) 700-5752
<http://calfed.ca.gov>

1444.
MY NAME IS GEORGE GOMES AND I AM A NATIVE CALIFORNIAN AND LIFELONG AGRICULTURALIST. MY FARM LAND IS NOT THE SUBJECT OF YOUR CONSIDERATIONS BUT I DO KNOW THAT WILDLIFE SUCH AS PHEASANT, DUCKS, GEESE, FOX, RABBITS AND DEER DEPEND ON IT FOR FOOD AND SHELTER. I KNOW THAT OTHER FARMLAND UNDER YOUR CONSIDERATION HAS ITS OWN UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT WHICH INCLUDES PLANTS, ANIMALS, BIRDS AND FISH THAT WILL BE DISPLACED BY YOUR INTEREST TO PROVIDE HABITAT FOR THE FISH OF YOUR CHOICE. YOUR EFFORTS WILL ALSO DISPLACE FAMILIES WHO NURTURED THE LAND FOR GENERATIONS AND PROVIDE HABITAT FOR PEOPLE AS WELL AS NON HUMAN SPECIES.

ONE LOOK AT THE LIST OF PUBLIC AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PROCESS READILY EXPLAINS WHY YOU HAVE NOT CONSIDERED THE PEOPLE AFFECTED BY YOUR MASSIVE LAND RETIREMENT AND WHY YOU CONSIDER IT 'UNAVOIDABLE'. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IS TO THE FISH AND WILDLIFE OR ENVIRONMENT ISSUES. THE CALFED NEEDS FEDERAL AND STATE REPRESENTATION FROM THE AGENCIES THAT DEAL WITH HUMANS SUCH AS LABOR AND EDUCATION OR SOCIAL SERVICES LIKE AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDANT CHILDREN AND FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING. YOUR ACTIONS WILL NEGATIVELY IMPACT THOSE AGENCIES AS YOU PUT FARMERS AND FARMWORKERS OUT OF JOBS AND DISPLACE THOSE BUSINESSES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES THAT DEPEND ON AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES. YOU ALSO NEED REPRESENTATION FROM COUNTY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHO WILL NOT HAVE TAX REVENUES TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES SUCH AS SCHOOLS, POLICE, FIRE AND HEALTH SAFETY.

YOU FAILED TO CONSIDER ALL CAUSES OF DECLINING FISH NUMBERS BY NOT ADDRESSING THE FISH TAKEN BY NON-NATIVE PREDATORS, OFF SHORE COMMERCIAL FISHING AND TAKE FROM OTHER WILDLIFE. HAD YOU CONSIDERED THESE ISSUES, YOUR SOLUTIONS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SO DETRIMENTAL TO THE HUMAN INHABITANTS OF THE AREA UNDER YOUR STUDY.

YOU ALSO FAILED TO CONSIDER THE NEED TO INCREASE OVERALL WATER AVAILABILITY FOR THE GROWING POPULATION AND THE EXPANDING ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS. RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL WATER STORAGE WOULD HAVE GIVEN YOUR ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS SOME CREDIBILITY.

MORE THAN HALF OF CALIFORNIA IS ALREADY OWNED BY A GOVERNMENT AGENCY SO YOUR SOLUTIONS NEED TO CONSIDER USING EXISTING GOVERNMENT PROPERTY WITHOUT TAKING MORE LAND OUT OF PRODUCTION AND OFF THE TAX ROLLS. YOUR NEXT PROPOSAL SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL FLOOD PROTECTION FOR CALIFORNIA WHICH WOULD ALSO PROTECT WILDLIFE THAT ARE LOST IN FLOODS LIKE PEOPLE AND PROPERTY.

YOUR THINKING MAY BE PERFECT FOR A WORLD WITHOUT PEOPLE BUT THAT IS NOT REALITY--NOR IT IS POSSIBLE.